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NO. 946
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THE BIG COUNTRY

IT WAS TOO BIG FOR ONE MAN TO HAVE IT ALL!

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

They warned the dude: "The Big Country demands big courage!"

To his fiancée it meant fighting hopeless odds . . .

To his rival it meant vicious brawling . . .

To a cattle baron it meant walking into ambush . . .

But courage was none of these to the quiet dude . . .

And one day he would have to prove it—all alone!

GREGORY PECK JEAN SIMMONS
CARROLL BAKER CHARLTON HESTON
in WILLIAM WYLER'S production

THE BIG COUNTRY

Co-starring
BURL IVES CHARLES BICKFORD
with CHUCK CONNORS ALFONSO BEDOYA

Screenplay by JAMES R. WEBB and SY BARTLETT and ROBERT WILDER
Screen Adaption by JESSAMYN WEST and ROBERT WYLER Based on the Novel by DONALD HAMILTON Produced by WILLIAM WYLER and GREGORY PECK

Directed by WILLIAM WYLER

An Anthony—Worldwide Production Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

THE BIG COUNTRY, No. 946. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 750 Third Ave., New York 17, N. Y. George T. Delacorte, Jr., Publisher; Helen Meyer, President; Paul R. Lilly, Executive Vice-President; Harold Clark, Vice-Pres.-Advertising Director; Albert P. Delacorte, Treasurer. Copyright © 1958 by Donald Hamilton. All rights reserved. Authorized edition of The Big Country movie based on the story "Ambush at Blanco Canyon" by Donald Hamilton, copyright © 1957 by The Curtis Publishing Company. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.

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THE BIG COUNTRY

AS THE STAGE STOPS IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TEXAS TOWN...

BETTER DUCK INSIDE THE HOTEL, MISTER! SOMETHING'S ***WRONG!*** AREN'T ANY PEOPLE AROUND ON THE STREET!

COULD YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THE TERRILL PLACE---THE LADDER RANCH?

IT'S QUITE A PIECE OUT OF TOWN! I RECKON YOU'RE THE YOUNG FELLOW WHO'S GOING TO MARRY MISS PAT TERRILL!

IF SHE HASN'T CHANGED HER MIND! AND NOT SEEING ANYONE HERE TO MEET ME---

---NO ONE'S FOOL ENOUGH TO WALK OUTSIDE! NOT WITH THE TROUBLE ABOUT TO START BETWEEN THE TWO LADDER HANDS AND BUCK HANNESEY!

TROUBLE?

YES, FOUR HANNESEY BOYS HAVE TWO LADDER HANDS IN THE CAFE! THEY'RE TRYING TO GET 'EM DRUNK ENOUGH TO START A FIGHT!

AND IF THE FIGHT STARTS?

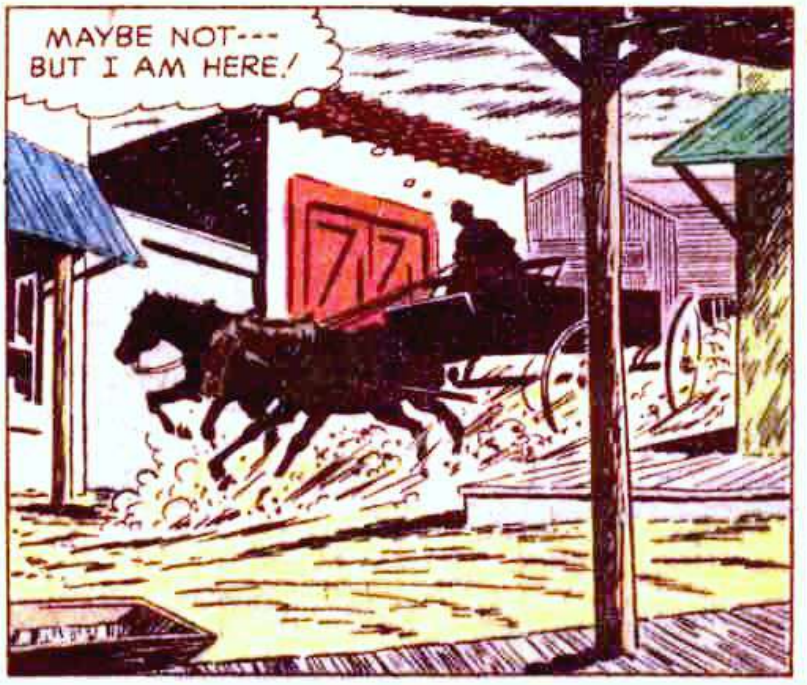
OLD RUFUS WILL HAVE HAD HIS SON BUCK MANAGE IT CLEVERLY ENOUGH TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT TERRILL'S MEN STARTED IT! THEN HANNESEY WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO REALLY START A SHOWDOWN! YOU SURE PICKED THE ***WRONG TIME*** TO COME A-CALLING AT THE LADDER RANCH!

T BIG COUNTRY CO.

MR. McKAY? THERE'S A BUCKBOARD OUTSIDE FOR YOU! TAKE YOUR FIRST RIGHT AND YOU'LL FIND MISS TERRILL WAITING FOR YOU! BUT MAKE IT QUICK--- LEAD WILL BE FLYING SOON!
THANKS!

THAT'S A HECK OF A HAT TO BRING TO THIS COUNTRY, FRIEND! IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, SOME COWBOY'S LIABLE TO SHOOT IT OFF FOR FUN!
I'LL REMEMBER THAT!

IF YOU NEED HELP AND SOMEBODY CAN LEND ME A WEAPON, PREFERABLY A RIFLE SINCE I'M NOT USED TO REVOLVING PISTOLS---
---DON'T BE A HERO, MR. McKAY! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR GREENHORNS!

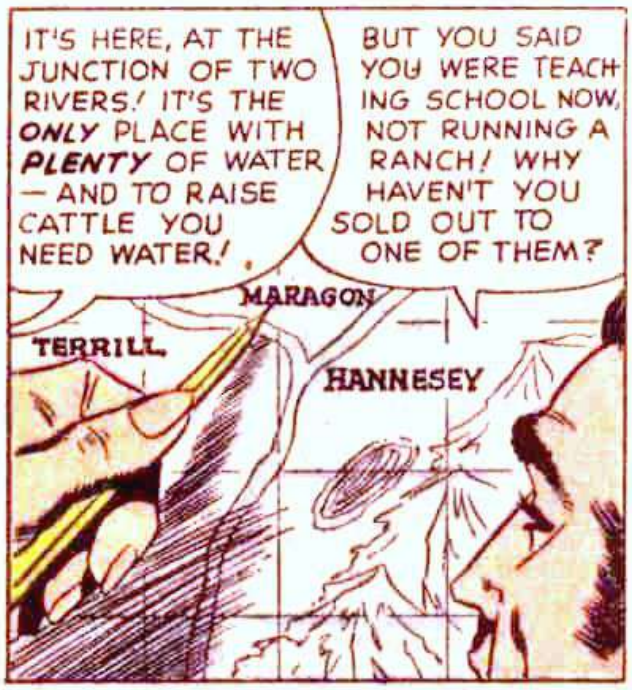

MAYBE NOT--- BUT I AM HERE!

JIM, DARLING!
HELLO, PAT! IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS--- BUT YOU'RE EXACTLY AS I REMEMBER YOU!

THERE WERE TIMES I WAS CERTAIN YOU WEREN'T COMING--- THAT YOU'D POSTPONE OUR WEDDING TO GET RID OF ME!
THERE WERE TIMES I WONDERED IF YOU'D STILL HAVE ME WHEN I DID COME!

JULIE MARAGON, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET JIM!
HELLO, JIM! I'D HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU EASILY FROM ALL PAT HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOU! COME IN AND WAIT WHILE SHE GETS READY!

MINUTES LATER...
YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS ONE OF THE FIRST MEN TO RUN CATTLE HERE?
YES! AND HE PICKED THE BEST PIECE OF LAND FOR HIS OWN---THE ONE THE TERRILLS AND HANNESEYS BOTH WANT!


IT'S HERE, AT THE JUNCTION OF TWO RIVERS! IT'S THE ONLY PLACE WITH PLENTY OF WATER — AND TO RAISE CATTLE YOU NEED WATER!
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE TEACHING SCHOOL NOW, NOT RUNNING A RANCH! WHY HAVEN'T YOU SOLD OUT TO ONE OF THEM?
MARAGON
TERRILL
HANNESEY

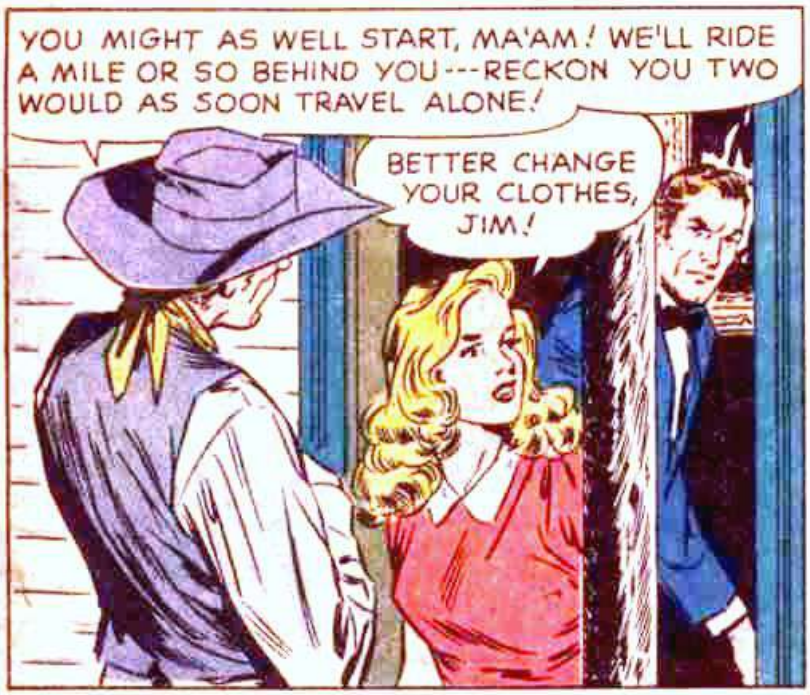
IT ISN'T EASY NOT SELLING OUT! I DON'T LIKE SAYING "NO" TO PAT'S FATHER! AND OLD RUFUS HANNESEY KEEPS SENDING HIS SON BUCK OVER, HOPING HE CAN GET MY LAND BY MARRYING ME!
WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT HOLDING OUT FOR LOVE OR MONEY--- WHY ARE YOU?

IF I SELL TO MAJOR TERRILL, OLD RUFUS WILL START A RANGE WAR TO GET IT! BUT WHILE I DON'T SELL IT, RUFUS FIGURES HE STILL MAY GET IT LEGALLY SOMEDAY, AND THAT KEEPS THE PEACE!
BUT HOW LONG CAN YOU STALL THEM OFF?

OLD RUFUS MAY DIE OR THE COUNTY MAY BECOME TOO SETTLED FOR BIG RANCHES TO SUCCEED! I'LL HOLD OUT AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP PEACE HERE! MEN'S LIVES DEPEND ON THAT—AND YOURS AMONG THEM!

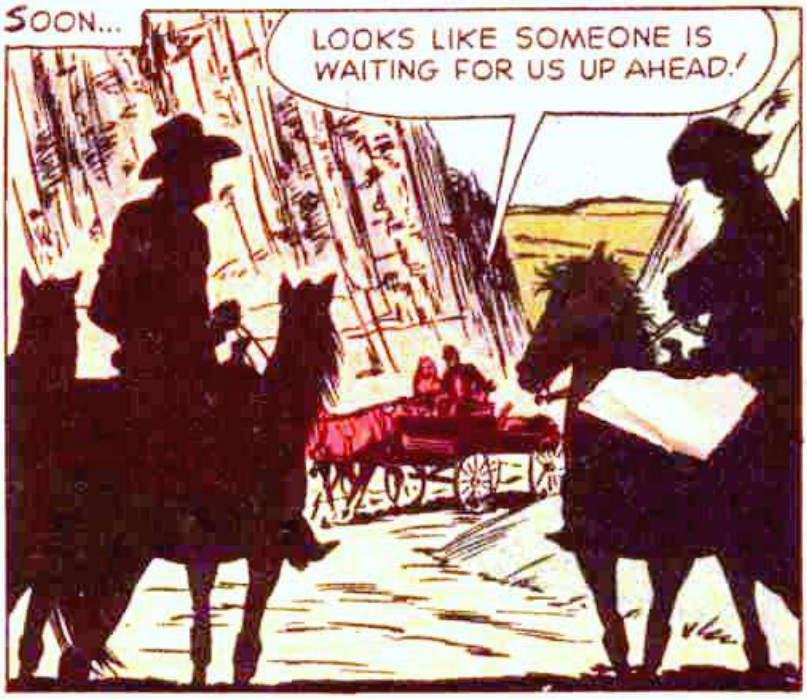
HERE COMES STEVE! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN TOWN!

WELL, STEVE?
WHEN THEY SAW THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED, THERE WASN'T ANY FIGHT IN THEM!


YOU MIGHT AS WELL START, MA'AM! WE'LL RIDE A MILE OR SO BEHIND YOU---RECKON YOU TWO WOULD AS SOON TRAVEL ALONE!
BETTER CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, JIM!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH WHAT I'M WEARING?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE RANCH WEARING THAT HAT, ARE YOU?

MY DEAR, IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR FATHER IN A SOMBRERO, HIGH-HEELED BOOTS AND WEARING A REVOLVER, YOU'RE WRONG! NO MATTER WHAT I WEAR, I'M GOING TO LOOK LIKE A TENDERFOOT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I AM!


SOON...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR US UP AHEAD!

HANNESEY'S MEN, I SUPPOSE!
YES! LOOKS LIKE BUCK ON THE BAY! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

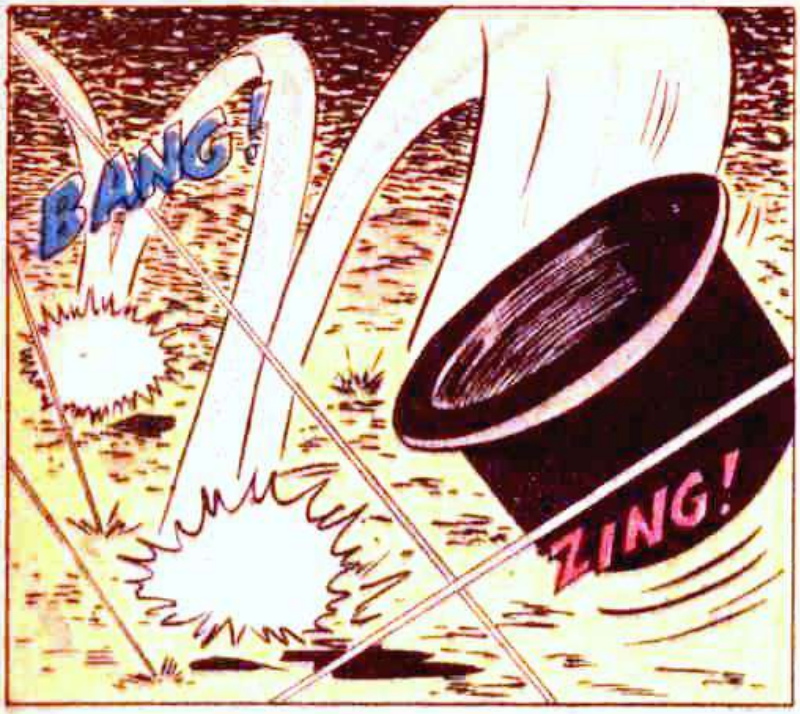
IT SEEMED LOGICAL! THEY WERE ROUTED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS IN TOWN SO THEY DECIDED TO LIE IN WAIT OUT HERE! I DON'T SUPPOSE WE CAN OUTRUN THEM?
I WOULDN'T RUN FROM THAT BUNCH OF SADDLE TRAMPS!

THEY AREN'T LIKELY TO HARM YOU, ARE THEY?
EVEN THE HANNESEYS WOULDN'T TOUCH A WOMAN! THE WHOLE COUNTY WOULD STRING THEM UP!

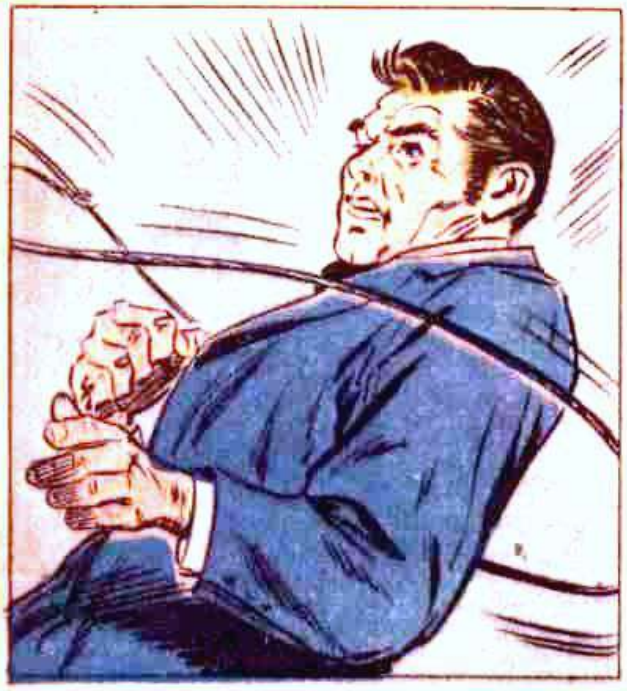
THEN WE WON'T NEED THE RIFLE!
SO THAT'S THE FELLOW YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY, MISS TERRILL! HE SURE WEARS FANCY CLOTHES!

HIS HAT WOULD SURE MAKE A GOOD TARGET!

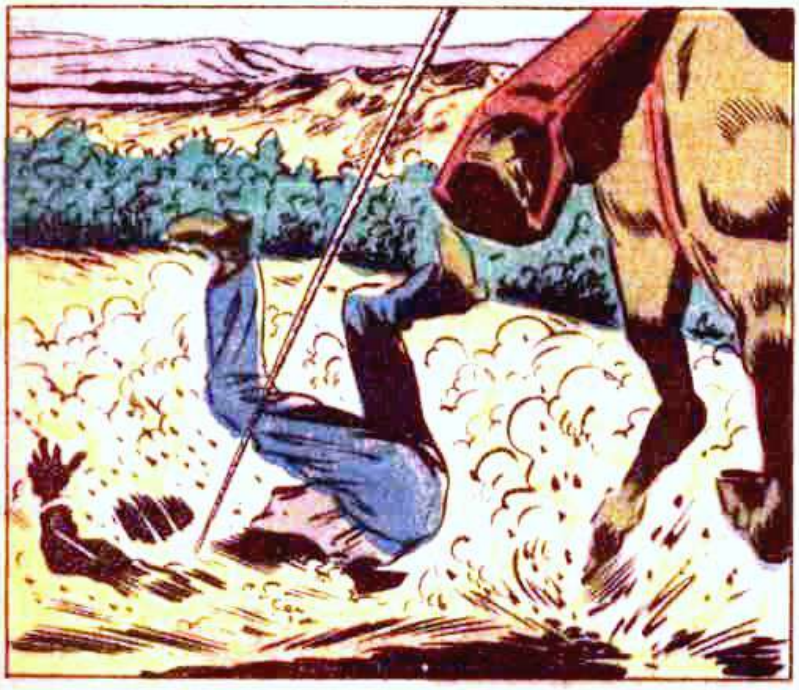
CLIP IT, BOYS!
BANG
ZING

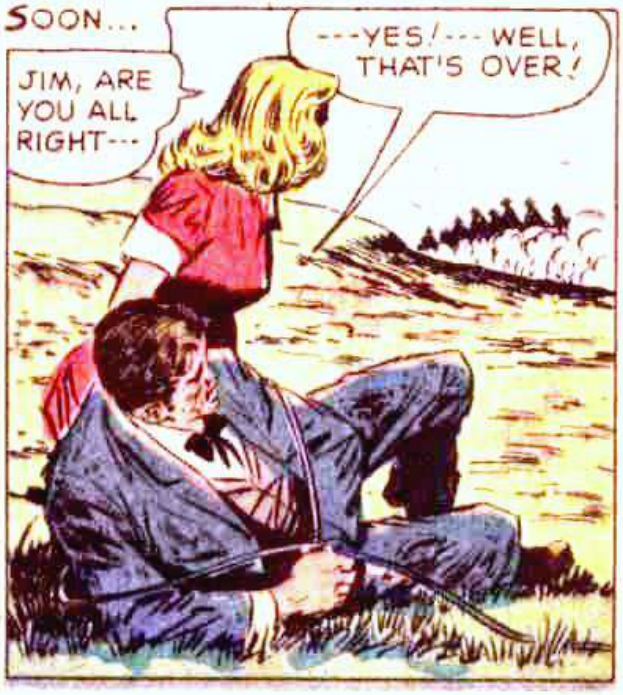

BANG!
ZING!

GET HIM, BOYS!



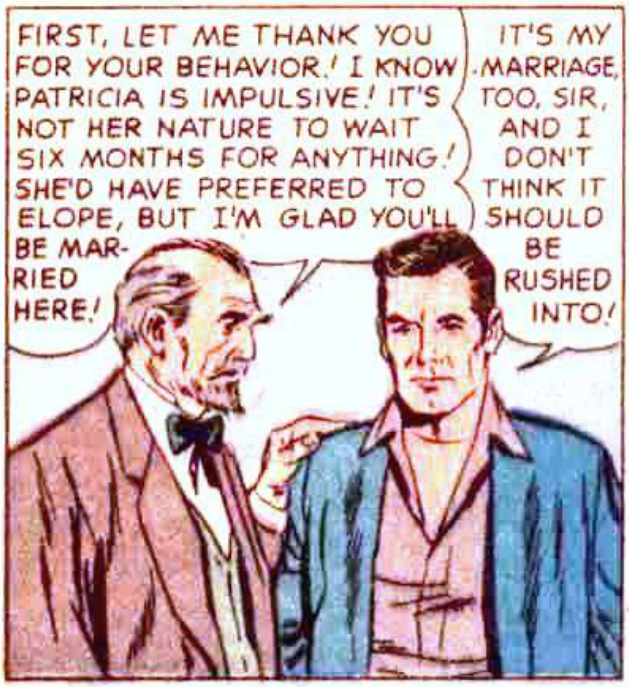
STOP!
SURE, MISS TERRILL--- SOON AS WE MAKE HIM A MITE FAMILIAR WITH OUR TEXAS DUST!



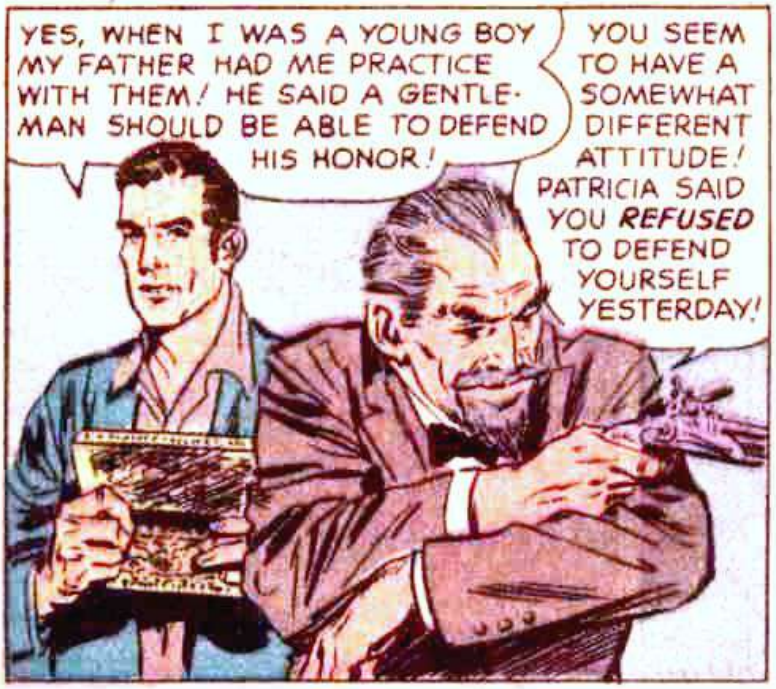

SOON...
JIM, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT---
---YES!--- WELL, THAT'S OVER!

AND I DON'T THINK MUCH OF THEIR MARKSMANSHIP! COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

NEXT MORNING, AT THE LADDER RANCH...
HOW DO YOU FEEL, JIM?
A LOT BETTER, MAJOR TERRILL!


FIRST, LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR! I KNOW PATRICIA IS IMPULSIVE! IT'S NOT HER NATURE TO WAIT SIX MONTHS FOR ANYTHING! SHE'D HAVE PREFERRED TO ELOPE, BUT I'M GLAD YOU'LL BE MARRIED HERE!
IT'S MY MARRIAGE, TOO, SIR, AND I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE RUSHED INTO!

THESE BELONGED TO MY FATHER! THEY'RE FRENCH DUELING PISTOLS AND QUITE ACCURATE! I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THEM!
THAT'S MOST KIND, JIM! I SEE THEY WERE USED!

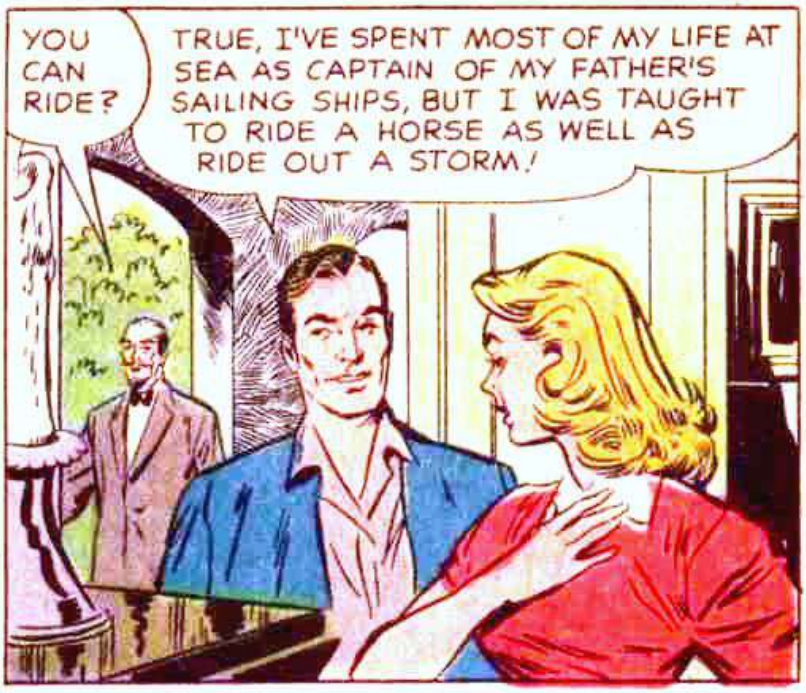

YES, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY MY FATHER HAD ME PRACTICE WITH THEM! HE SAID A GENTLEMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIS HONOR!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ATTITUDE! PATRICIA SAID YOU REFUSED TO DEFEND YOURSELF YESTERDAY!

PERHAPS, I DID NOT FEEL MY HONOR WAS INVOLVED, SIR!
WELL, YOURS MAY NOT BE, BUT MINE IS! NO ARMED RUFFIANS ARE ROUGHING UP A GUEST OF MINE! I'VE SENT STEVE TO ROUND UP THE HANDS---WE'RE CALLING ON THE HANNESEYS!

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, MAJOR, I'D PREFER NOT TO BE THE CAUSE OF A LOT OF TROUBLE! IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO AVOID YESTERDAY! I'D APPRECIATE YOUR FORGETTING IT!
FORGET IT? I FIND YOUR ATTITUDE HARD TO UNDERSTAND!

WHAT DO YOU FIND HARD TO UNDERSTAND?
WHY, I TOLD JIM WE WERE RIDING AGAINST THE HANNESEYS AND HE DIDN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN JOINING US!

I MERELY HOPED YOU'D CHANGED YOUR MIND! BUT IF YOU ARE RIDING, OF COURSE, I'LL BE WITH YOU!
SEE, DAD? I TOLD YOU JIM WAS A REAL MAN!

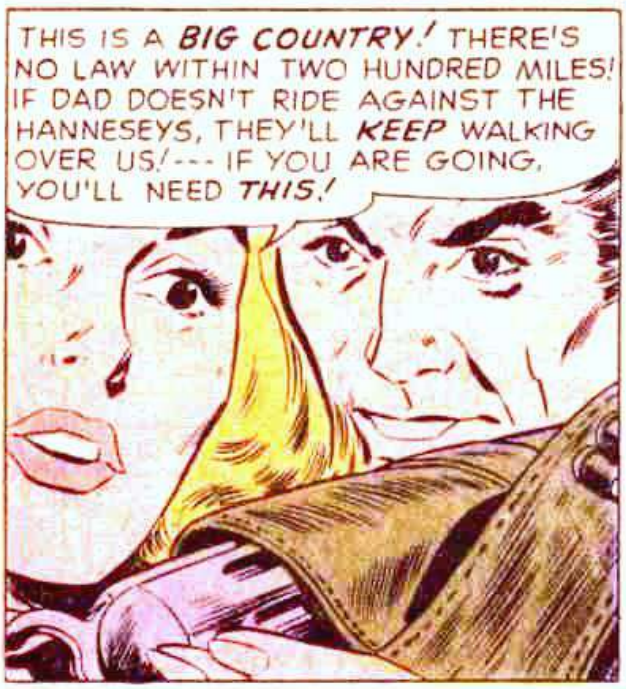

YOU CAN RIDE?
TRUE, I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE AT SEA AS CAPTAIN OF MY FATHER'S SAILING SHIPS, BUT I WAS TAUGHT TO RIDE A HORSE AS WELL AS RIDE OUT A STORM!

OH, JIM, I WISH WE'D GOTTEN MARRIED WHEN I WANTED TO! WE HAD SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN THOSE DAYS WHEN I WAS ON YOUR SHIP! I'M AFRAID SOMETHING WILL SPOIL IT!
IF IT CAN'T LAST SIX MONTHS, HOW COULD IT LAST A LIFETIME?

I GUESS I DISAPPOINTED YOU YESTERDAY!
NO, OF COURSE NOT! --WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE---BUT YOU ARE RIDING WITH THEM TODAY! THAT MAKES UP FOR IT!

I THINK YOU MISS THE POINT! THOSE MEN WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO KILL ME IN FRONT OF A WITNESS LIKE YOU! YOU SAID THEY WOULDN'T HARM YOU! I COULDN'T LET YOU DEFEND ME, AND I'D HAVE HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST THE FOUR OF THEM!

GREENHORNS ARE ALWAYS FAIR GAME! I'VE SEEN MY SAILORS GIVE LAND-LUBBERS A ROUGH TIME ON BOARD SHIP! SHOULD I HAVE RISKED KILLING SOMEONE JUST TO SAVE MY SUIT?

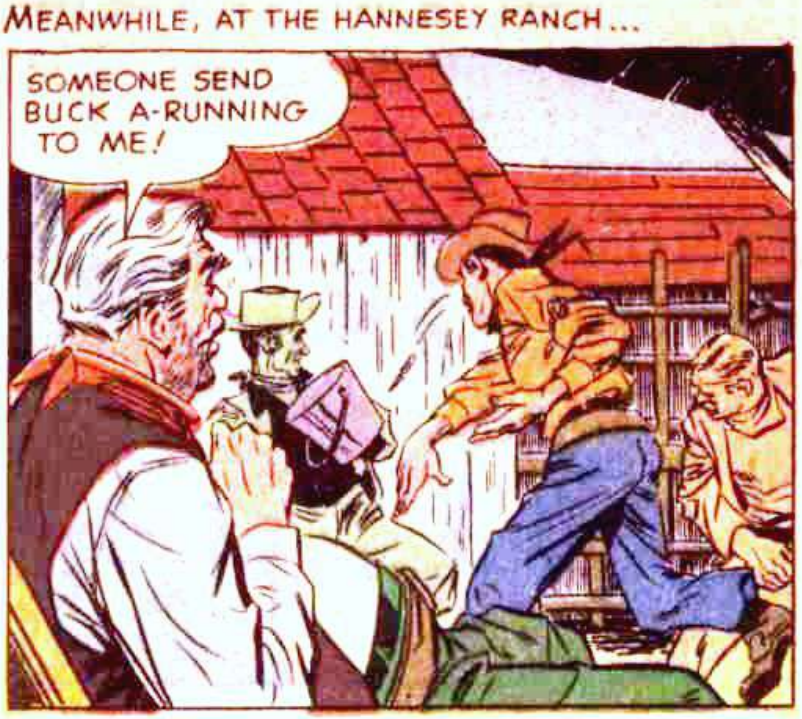

THIS IS A BIG COUNTRY! THERE'S NO LAW WITHIN TWO HUNDRED MILES! IF DAD DOESN'T RIDE AGAINST THE HANNESEYS, THEY'LL KEEP WALKING OVER US!--- IF YOU ARE GOING, YOU'LL NEED THIS!

SOON...
WE GENERALLY GET ON FROM THE LEFT SIDE, MR. McKAY!
THAT MUCH I KNOW!

AND I ALSO KNOW WHY EVERYONE— INCLUDING PAT—IS WATCHING! THAT HORSE IS A WILD BRONC! THEY WANT TO SEE ME THROWN AND SHE WANTS TO TEST MY MANHOOD!

TAKE THIS, PLEASE! I DON'T THINK YOUR PLAN IS A WISE ONE AND DON'T USE ME TO JUSTIFY YOUR FIGHTING, SIR!

BESIDES, MR. LEECH HAS PROVIDED ME WITH SUCH A GENTLE HORSE, I DON'T THINK HE COULD KEEP UP WITH YOU!


MEANWHILE, AT THE HANNESEY RANCH...
SOMEONE SEND BUCK A-RUNNING TO ME!

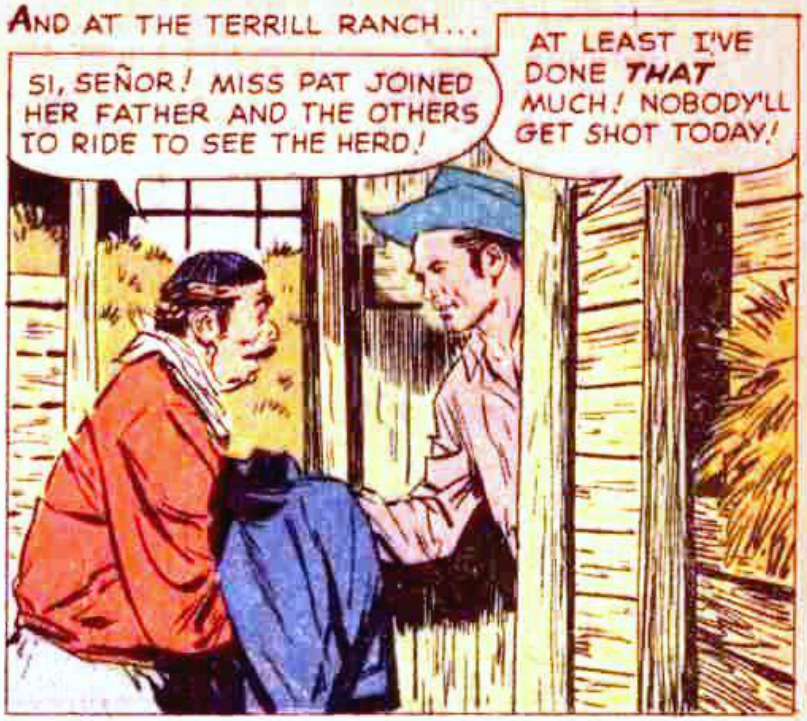
WANT ME, DAD?
I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO BEAT UP ANY STRANGERS, DID I?

HECK, I JUST MUSSED UP THE DUDE A LITTLE! WHAT'S THE HARM? YOU WANT TO KEEP PUSHING TERRILL, DON'T YOU?
NOT TWICE IN ONE DAY, YOU FOOL! TERRILL IS A STUPID, HOT-HEADED MAN! HE THINKS HE CAN BUFFALO US ANY TIME HE WANTS TO RIDE HERE!

BUT I DON'T WANT HIM HERE TILL I'M READY FOR HIM! KEEP YOUR PISTOL HOLSTERED TILL I TELL YOU TO USE IT! IF YOU HAD KILLED THAT DUDE I'D HAVE TURNED YOU IN MYSELF! IS THAT CLEAR?
IT'S CLEAR!

NOW DON'T GO WASTING TIME FIGURING HOW YOU CAN GET THE BEST OF ME! ROUND UP THE HARDCASES WE LET HIDE OUT HERE SO WE'LL BE READY IF TERRILL COMES! THEN FIND ME THAT BROKEN-DOWN PREACHER BEAMIS! I MAY WANT HIM TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE IN A FEW DAYS!

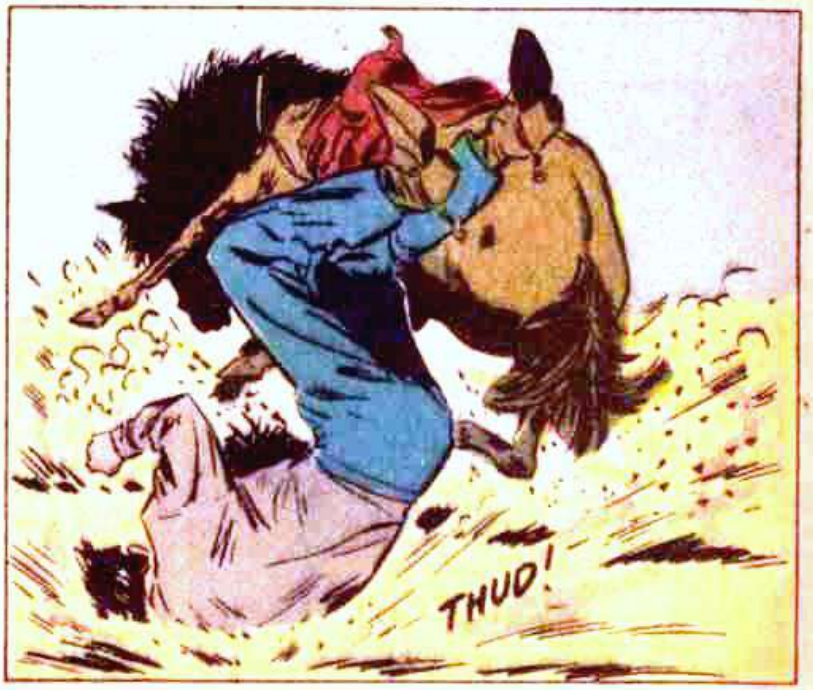
YES, WE'RE TRASH! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CALLED IT, ALWAYS WILL BE! BUT MAYBE I CAN WHIP THE LIKES OF HIGH AND MIGHTY MAJOR TERRILL YET! IF I GET BUCK TO MARRY MISS MARAGON, HER LAND WILL BE OURS! AND THEN THE HANNESEYS WILL OWN THIS COUNTY!


AND AT THE TERRILL RANCH...
SI, SEÑOR! MISS PAT JOINED HER FATHER AND THE OTHERS TO RIDE TO SEE THE HERD!
AT LEAST I'VE DONE THAT MUCH! NOBODY'LL GET SHOT TODAY!

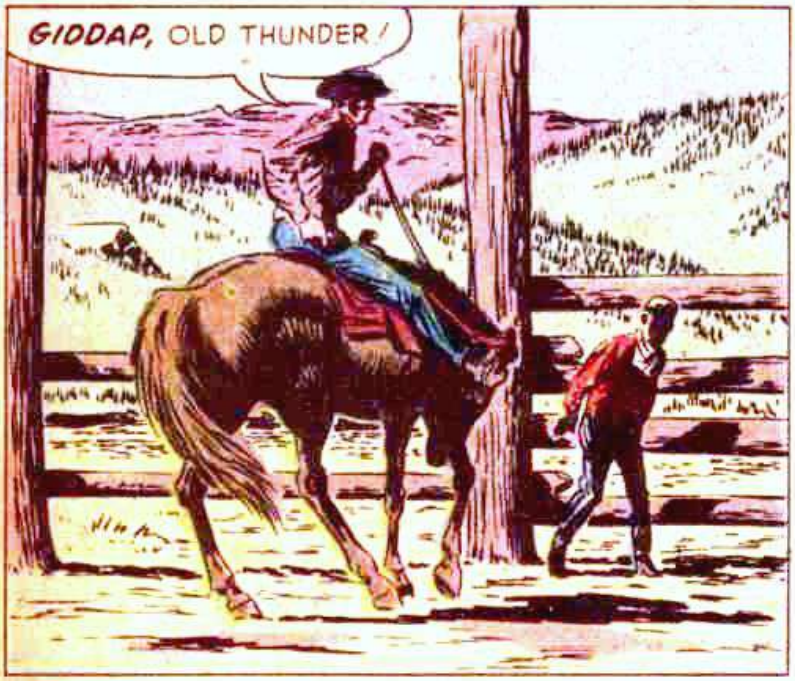
BUT YOU ARE NOT SERIOUS, SEÑOR, ABOUT RIDING OLD THUNDER? ONLY THE MAJOR AND STEVE HAVE STAYED ON HIM!
SADDLE HIM UP, RAMON!

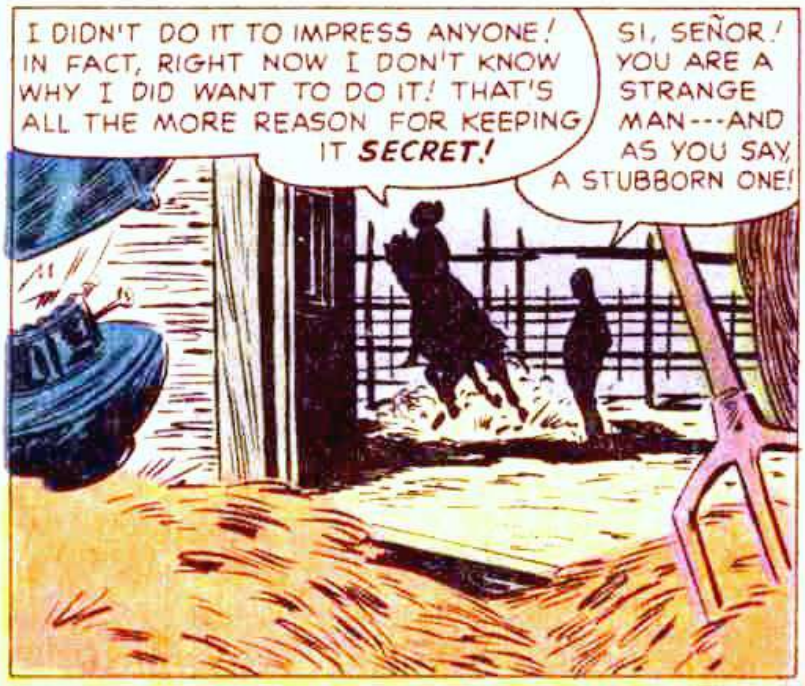
BUT THIS MORNING---
---I DIDN'T WANT TO GET THROWN OFF HIM JUST TO GIVE MR. LEECH A LAUGH! BUT I WILL TRY TO RIDE HIM NOW FOR MY OWN SATISFACTION!

NEIIIGH!

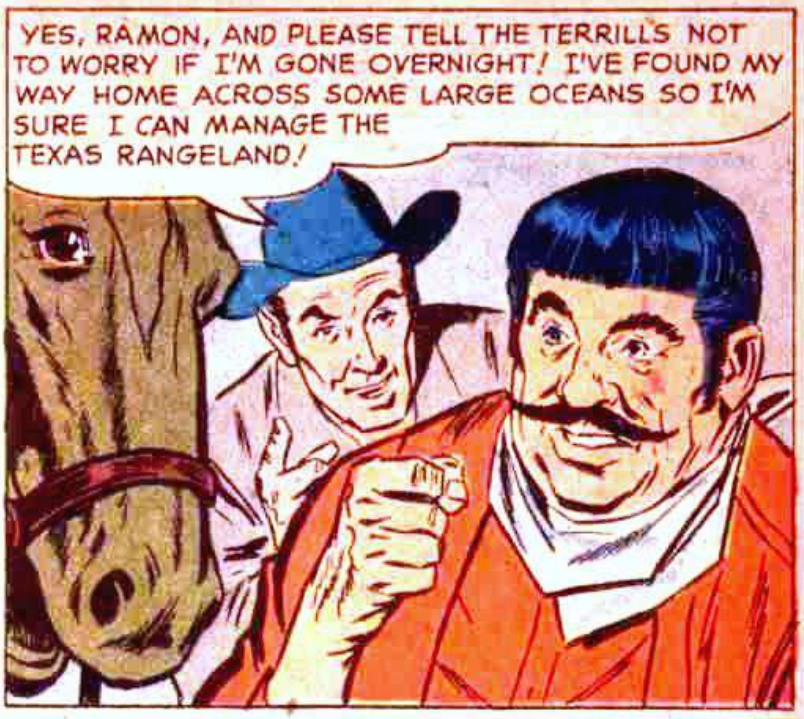

THUD!

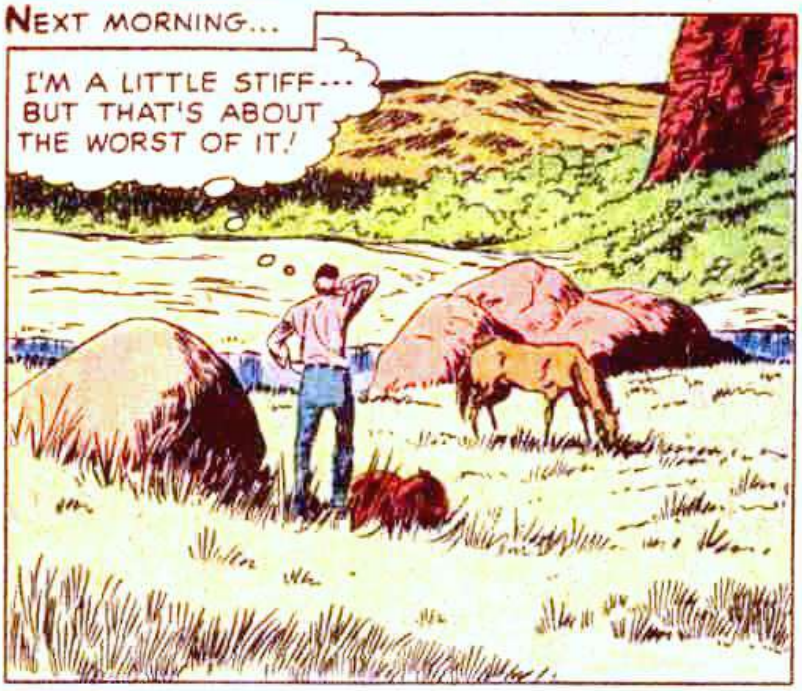
A DOZEN TRIES LATER....





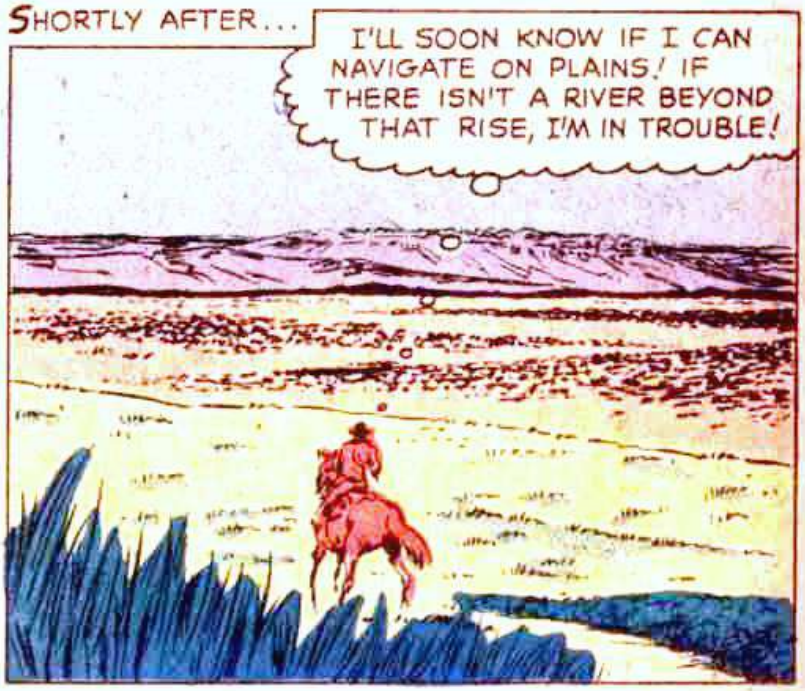
NOW, IF I CAN TROUBLE YOU FOR ONE MORE FAVOR---A SADDLED HORSE, SOME FOOD AND WATER AND A MAP OF THE AREA!
YOU ARE GOING RIDING AGAIN?

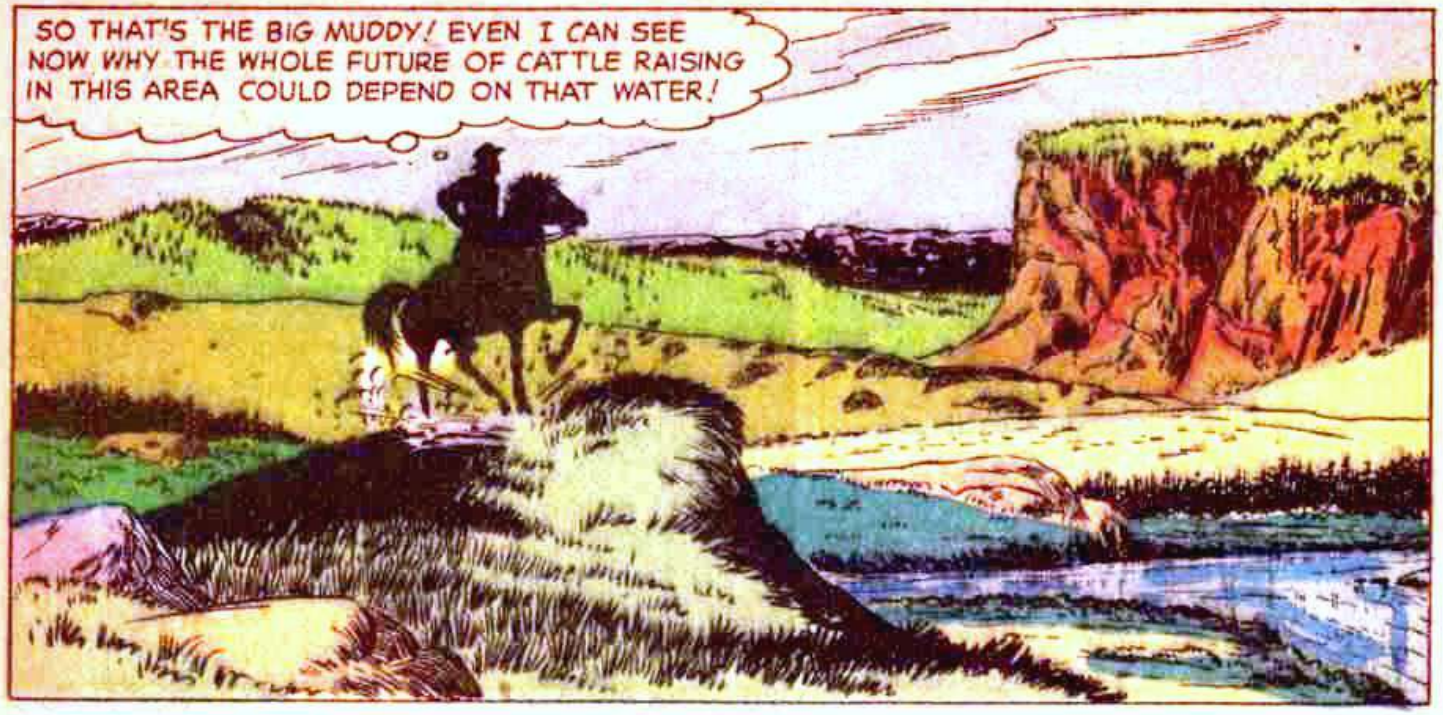

YES, RAMON, AND PLEASE TELL THE TERRILLS NOT TO WORRY IF I'M GONE OVERNIGHT! I'VE FOUND MY WAY HOME ACROSS SOME LARGE OCEANS SO I'M SURE I CAN MANAGE THE TEXAS RANGELAND!


NEXT MORNING...
I'M A LITTLE STIFF--- BUT THAT'S ABOUT THE WORST OF IT!

BUT I HAD TO SEE THIS COUNTRY FOR MYSELF SO I COULD DECIDE WHETHER TO STAY HERE WITH PAT AND GO IN FOR RANCHING OR TAKE HER BACK EAST AND CONTINUE IN THE FAMILY SHIPPING BUSINESS!

NOW I MIGHT AS WELL FIND THE BIG MUDDY---MISS JULIE'S PATCH OF LAND THAT'S CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE!


SHORTLY AFTER...
I'LL SOON KNOW IF I CAN NAVIGATE ON PLAINS! IF THERE ISN'T A RIVER BEYOND THAT RISE, I'M IN TROUBLE!


SO THAT'S THE BIG MUDDY! EVEN I CAN SEE NOW WHY THE WHOLE FUTURE OF CATTLE RAISING IN THIS AREA COULD DEPEND ON THAT WATER!

JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, PILGRIM!

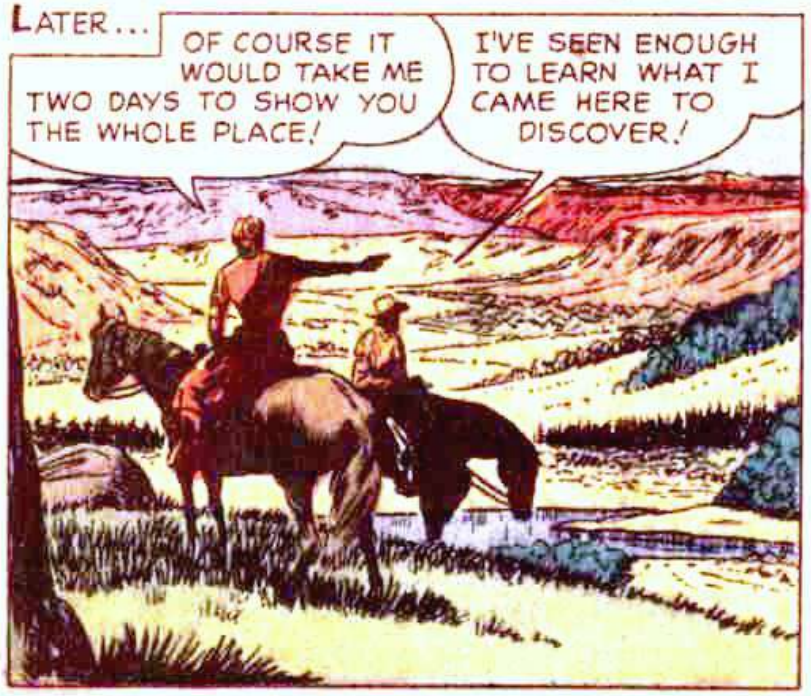
JI-JIM!
HELLO, JULIE! I'M SORRY FOR TRESPASSING! I WANTED TO GET A LOOK AT THE LAND THAT WAS CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE AROUND HERE!

WHERE'S PAT? YOU AREN'T RIDING AROUND ALONE?
JULIE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THIS IS A BIG COUNTRY, I'LL BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU! EVERYONE ELSE HAS ALREADY TOLD ME THAT!

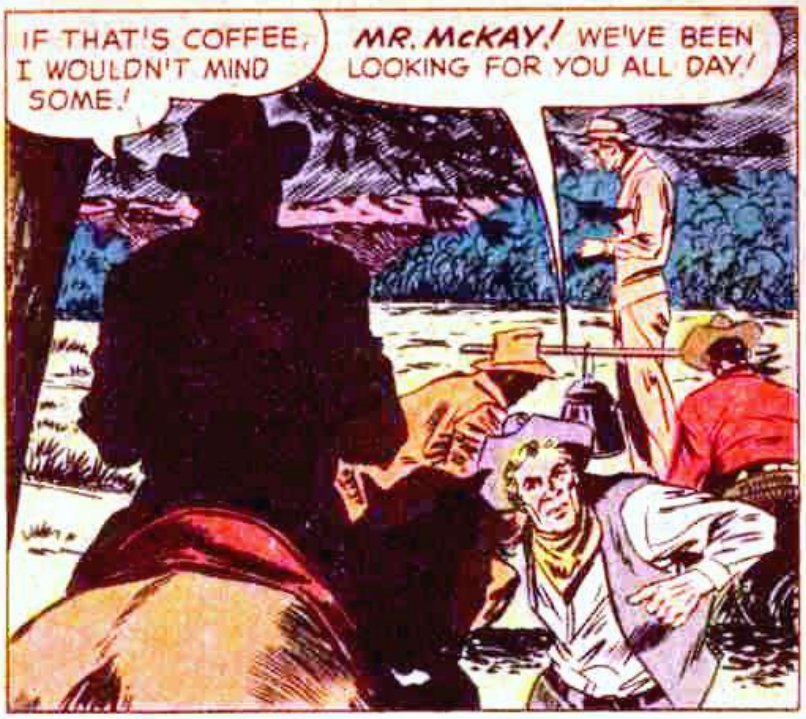
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU HOPE TO KEEP FROM GETTING LOST!
I HAVE A MAP AND A COMPASS! AND THEY'VE GUIDED ME TO SOME FINE SMELLING COOKING!

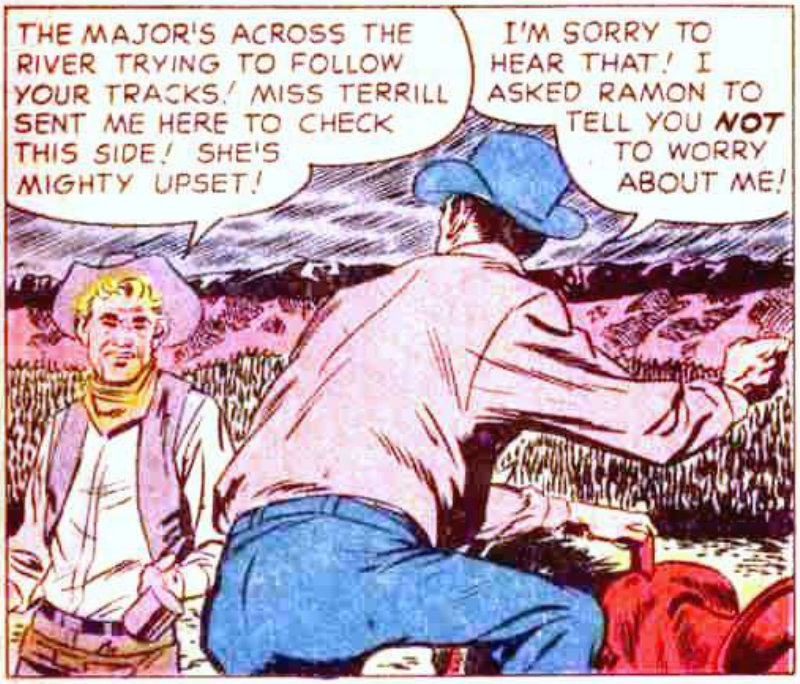
RELUCTANTLY JIM McKAY TELLS OF HOW HE RODE OLD THUNDER...

LATER...



EARLY THAT EVENING, JIM McKAY RIDES OUT OF JULIE MARAGON'S RANCH, AND...

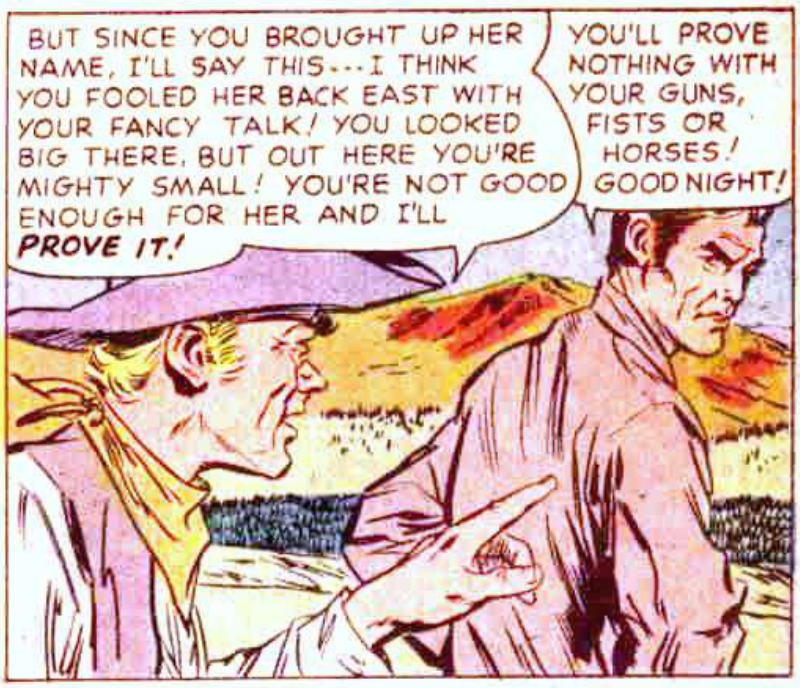




MR. LEECH, FOR THE SAKE OF ACCURACY, WHY DON'T YOU SAY THAT I LOOKED TIRED, BUT I WAS HEADING HERE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WHEN I CAME UPON YOUR CAMPSITE?
ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR?

I AM MERELY CORRECTING THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE GIVING MAJOR TERRILL!
OUT HERE, CALLING A MAN A LIAR IS ASKING FOR A FIGHT! BUT SEEING YOU'RE A STRANGER IN THESE PARTS, I'LL LET YOU TAKE IT BACK!

IF I'M IN AS BAD SHAPE AS YOU CLAIM, IT WOULDN'T BE A FAIR TIME FOR YOU TO FIGHT WITH ME, WOULD IT? BUT YOU'RE GAMBLING THAT YOU CAN BEAT ME AND THAT MISS TERRILL WILL ADMIRE YOU FOR IT!
IF YOU WERE A GENTLEMAN, YOU'D HAVE KEPT HER NAME OUT OF IT!


BUT SINCE YOU BROUGHT UP HER NAME, I'LL SAY THIS... I THINK YOU FOOLED HER BACK EAST WITH YOUR FANCY TALK! YOU LOOKED BIG THERE, BUT OUT HERE YOU'RE MIGHTY SMALL! YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HER AND I'LL PROVE IT!
YOU'LL PROVE NOTHING WITH YOUR GUNS, FISTS OR HORSES! GOOD NIGHT!

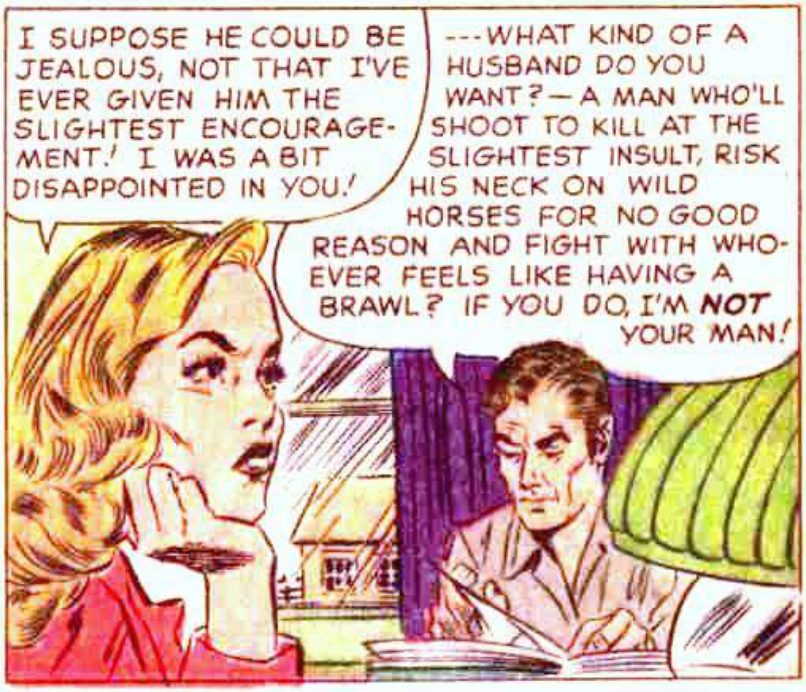
COME BACK HERE!

OW!

I'LL BET HE'LL FIGHT NOW!

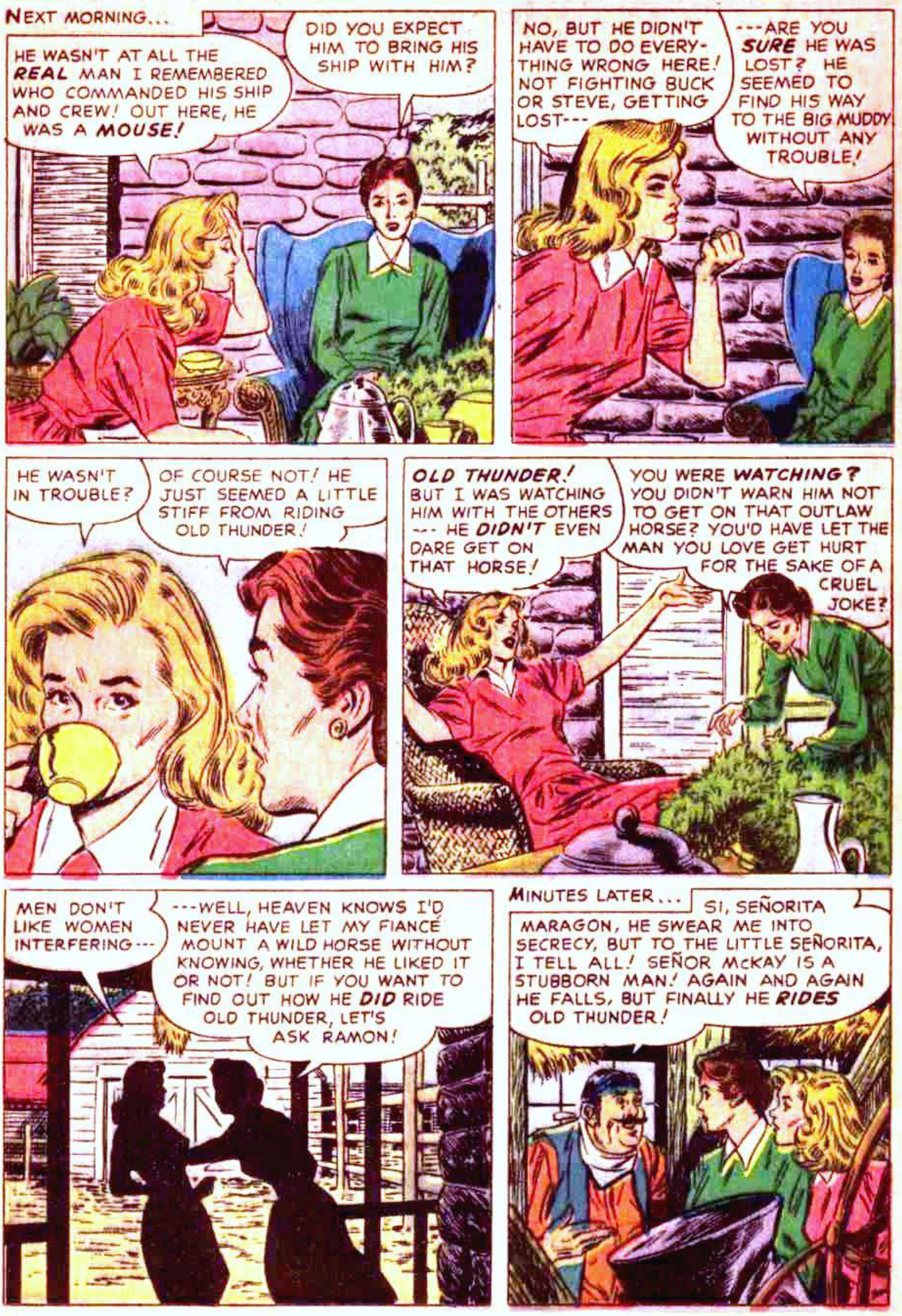
WELL I'LL BE!-- HE'S NOT GOING TO LIFT A FINGER!

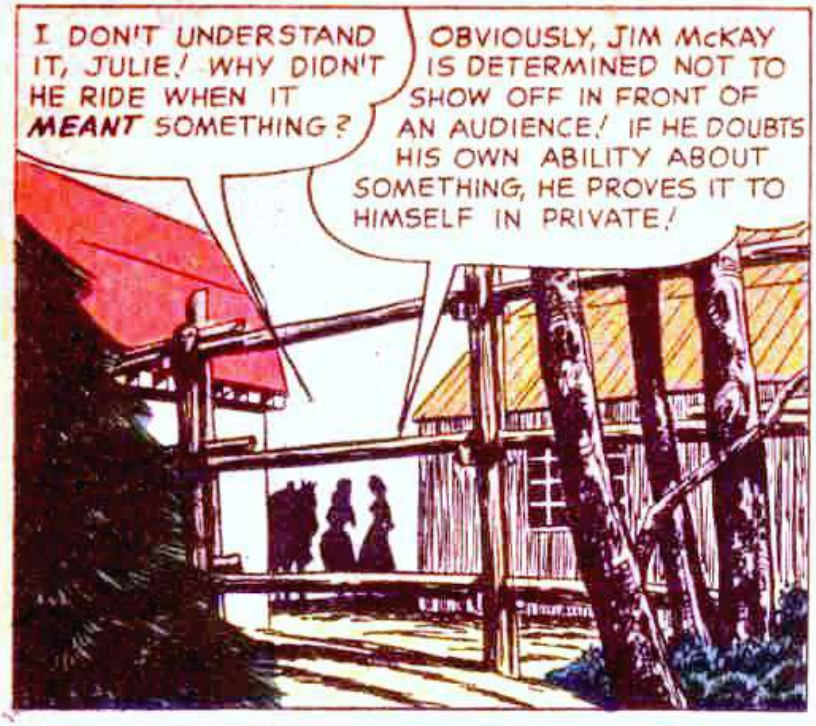
SOON...
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT GOT INTO STEVE!
I CAN--- JEALOUSY!


I SUPPOSE HE COULD BE JEALOUS, NOT THAT I'VE EVER GIVEN HIM THE SLIGHTEST ENCOURAGEMENT! I WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!
---WHAT KIND OF A HUSBAND DO YOU WANT?—A MAN WHO'LL SHOOT TO KILL AT THE SLIGHTEST INSULT, RISK HIS NECK ON WILD HORSES FOR NO GOOD REASON AND FIGHT WITH WHOEVER FEELS LIKE HAVING A BRAWL? IF YOU DO, I'M NOT YOUR MAN!

YOU MAKE IT SOUND CHILDISH! BUT COURAGE IS VERY IMPORTANT OUT HERE!
I DON'T INTEND TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE PROVING TO YOU OR ANYONE ELSE HOW BRAVE I AM!

YOU'VE ALREADY PROVED ENOUGH!
WELL---I GUESS THAT TAKES CARE OF THE WEDDING! IF YOU'LL HAVE SOMEONE HITCH UP A BUCKBOARD, I'LL PACK MY THINGS AND HEAD EAST!


NEXT MORNING...
HE WASN'T AT ALL THE REAL MAN I REMEMBERED WHO COMMANDED HIS SHIP AND CREW! OUT HERE, HE WAS A MOUSE!
DID YOU EXPECT HIM TO BRING HIS SHIP WITH HIM?
NO, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WRONG HERE! NOT FIGHTING BUCK OR STEVE, GETTING LOST---
---ARE YOU SURE HE WAS LOST? HE SEEMED TO FIND HIS WAY TO THE BIG MUDDY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE!
HE WASN'T IN TROUBLE?
OF COURSE NOT! HE JUST SEEMED A LITTLE STIFF FROM RIDING OLD THUNDER!
OLD THUNDER! BUT I WAS WATCHING HIM WITH THE OTHERS --- HE DIDN'T EVEN DARE GET ON THAT HORSE!
YOU WERE WATCHING? YOU DIDN'T WARN HIM NOT TO GET ON THAT OUTLAW HORSE? YOU'D HAVE LET THE MAN YOU LOVE GET HURT FOR THE SAKE OF A CRUEL JOKE?
MEN DON'T LIKE WOMEN INTERFERING---
---WELL, HEAVEN KNOWS I'D NEVER HAVE LET MY FIANCÉ MOUNT A WILD HORSE WITHOUT KNOWING, WHETHER HE LIKED IT OR NOT! BUT IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT HOW HE DID RIDE OLD THUNDER, LET'S ASK RAMON!
MINUTES LATER...
SI, SEÑORITA MARAGON, HE SWEAR ME INTO SECRECY, BUT TO THE LITTLE SEÑORITA, I TELL ALL! SEÑOR McKAY IS A STUBBORN MAN! AGAIN AND AGAIN HE FALLS, BUT FINALLY HE RIDES OLD THUNDER!



SOON AFTER, AS JULIE MARAGON RIDES FOR TOWN...

LATER THAT AFTERNOON IN TOWN AS JIM PREPARES TO LEAVE...

I COULD HAVE BEATEN THIS COUNTRY--- IF I HAD A REASON!

JIM!

I BROUGHT YOU THIS! DAD SAID UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE COULDN'T KEEP THE DUELING PISTOLS!

I WAS HOPING HE WOULD!

I GUESS I HAVE TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR RING, TOO! BUT I'D RATHER YOU TOOK ME IN YOUR ARMS! I CAN SEE HOW STRONG YOU ARE BY THE WAY YOU LIFT ME DOWN--STRONG ENOUGH TO RIDE OLD THUNDER!

I SEE! YOU TALKED TO RAMON! I RODE OLD THUNDER SO NOW I'M RESPECTABLE AGAIN! FIT TO BE MARRIED TO A TERRILL!

JIM! I-I LEARNED I HAD MISJUDGED YOU AND CAME TO APOLOGIZE!

WHAT ABOUT STEVE LEECH? I'VE RIDDEN THE HORSE, BUT DON'T I HAVE TO FIGHT STEVE LEECH, TOO, TO QUALIFY FOR MARRIAGE? AND THEN MAYBE YOU'D LIKE ME TO SHOOT BUCK HANNESEY FOR A WEDDING PRESENT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT! NATURALLY, A GIRL LIKES TO KNOW THE MAN SHE'S GOING TO MARRY IS STRONG AND BRAVE ---

---I'M NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG, PAT, AND NOT VERY BRAVE! YES, I'LL FIGHT TO PROTECT A LIFE, MY OWN OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, BUT I WON'T FIGHT FOR YOUR ***PRIDE*** OR MINE!

I SEE I'M WASTING MY TIME!

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE FOUND OUT ALL THIS BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED, PAT! I'M SORRY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT!

JULIE TOLD ME THAT YOU BOUGHT THE BIG MUDDY! DAD SAID IF THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT, I WAS TO ASK YOU IF YOU'D SELL IT TO US!
TELL HIM I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SELLING RIGHT NOW!

SOON...
HELLO, RAMON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN TOWN?
I AM LEAVING THE RANCH! I AM NOT A DOG TO BE WHIPPED!

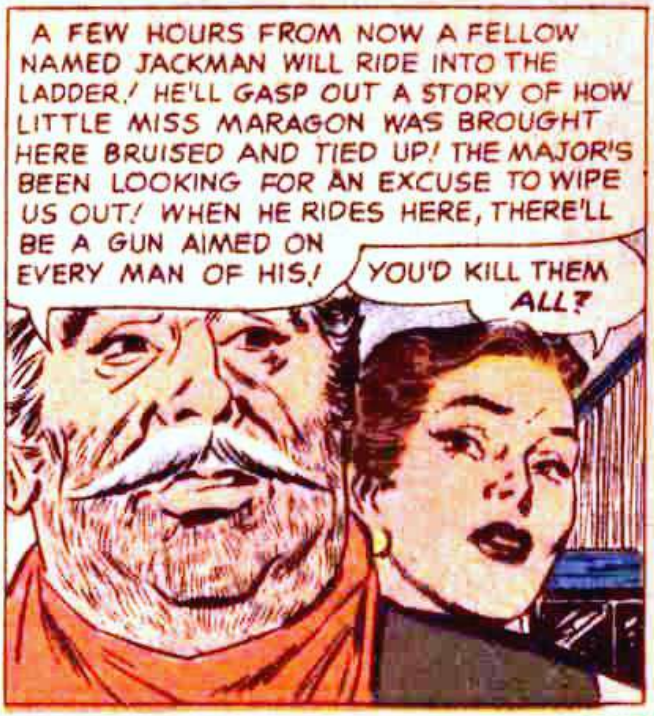
DID LEECH DO THAT?
NOT LEECH! IF HE EVER TRIED ANYTHING WITH ME, I WOULD CUT HIS THROAT OR BE KILLED BY HIM! NO, IT WAS THE SEÑORITA TERRILL! SHE SAID I MADE A FOOL OF HER! SHE WAS FURIOUS AT ME! IT IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO WORK!

BUT IT IS NOTHING! NOW I LOOK FOR SEÑORITA MARAGON! DID YOU SEE HER? SHE DROPPED THIS GLOVE ON THE WAY TO TOWN!
NO, MISS MARAGON HAS NOT BEEN HERE!

SHE START FOR TOWN AN HOUR OR TWO BEFORE ME, SEÑOR! I HAVE NOT PASSED HER ON THE ROAD! I HAD BETTER FIND HER TRAIL WHERE SHE DROPPED THE GLOVE!
WAIT A MINUTE! I WANT TO RIDE WITH YOU!

LATER...
BLAST IT, BUCK, GIVE THE LADY A HAND DOWN! ANYBODY'D THINK YOU WERE BROUGHT UP LIKE TRASH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, MR. HANNESEY? IF IT'S ABOUT BIG MUDDY AGAIN, I'LL DISCUSS IT SOME OTHER TIME!
I LIKE A GAL WHO COMES RIGHT TO THE POINT!


A FEW HOURS FROM NOW A FELLOW NAMED JACKMAN WILL RIDE INTO THE LADDER! HE'LL GASP OUT A STORY OF HOW LITTLE MISS MARAGON WAS BROUGHT HERE BRUISED AND TIED UP! THE MAJOR'S BEEN LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO WIPE US OUT! WHEN HE RIDES HERE, THERE'LL BE A GUN AIMED ON EVERY MAN OF HIS!
YOU'D KILL THEM ALL?

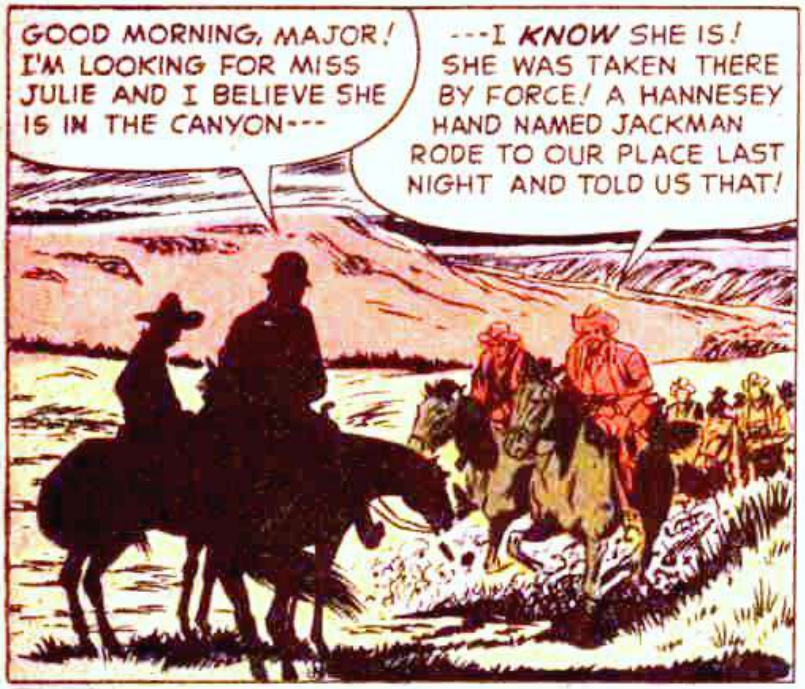
THAT'S UP TO YOU! THE MAJOR WILL ORDER US TO DELIVER YOU UP! BUT YOU'LL BE LOOKING FRESH AND UNHARMED! THEY'LL KNOW JACKMAN'S STORY IS PHONY! THEN YOU'LL INVITE THEM TO YOUR WEDDING!
M-MY WHAT?

MISS MARAGON, THIS IS THE REVEREND BEAMIS WHO'LL MARRY YOU TO BUCK—UNLESS YOU WANT TO SEE THE MAJOR AND ALL HIS MEN DIE--- BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO MARRY BUCK, THOSE HIDDEN GUNS GO INTO ACTION!
AND WHAT WILL THAT DO FOR YOU?

GET ME THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW I PROMISED BUCK AND BRING BIG MUDDY TO US!
HE'S WRONG THERE! BUT IF I TELL OLD RUFUS JIM OWNS IT NOW, HE'LL REALIZE WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO ENTER THE SALE OFFICIALLY! AND TO GET THE TEMPORARY PAPERS WE'VE DRAWN UP, HE'D MURDER JIM TO STEAL THEM!

WE'RE HAVING DINNER, MISS MARAGON! AFTERWARDS, YOU'LL BE SHOWN TO YOUR ROOM! I RECKON YOU HAVE SOME THINKING TO DO!

HAVING FOLLOWED JULIE MARAGON'S TRAIL TILL DARKNESS MADE THEM CAMP, JIM McKAY AND RAMON PICK IT UP AT FIRST LIGHT THE NEXT MORNING...

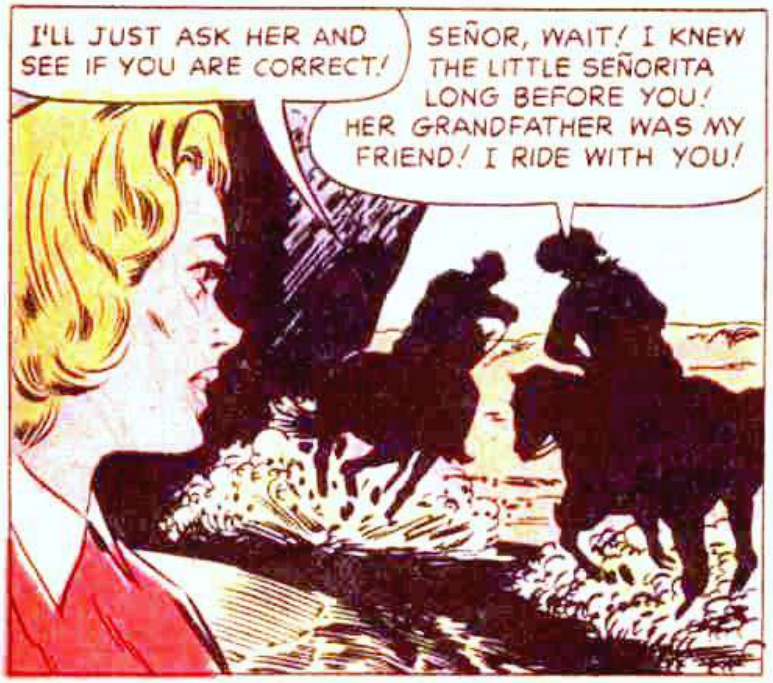


I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER, BUT I SEE NO REASON TO BARGAIN WITH SCOUNDRELS!
SIR, DID YOU COME HERE TO SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE OR MERELY TO SETTLE A PRIVATE GRUDGE?

DON'T RIDE IN!--- IT'S A TRAP!
PAT, WHAT'S WRONG?

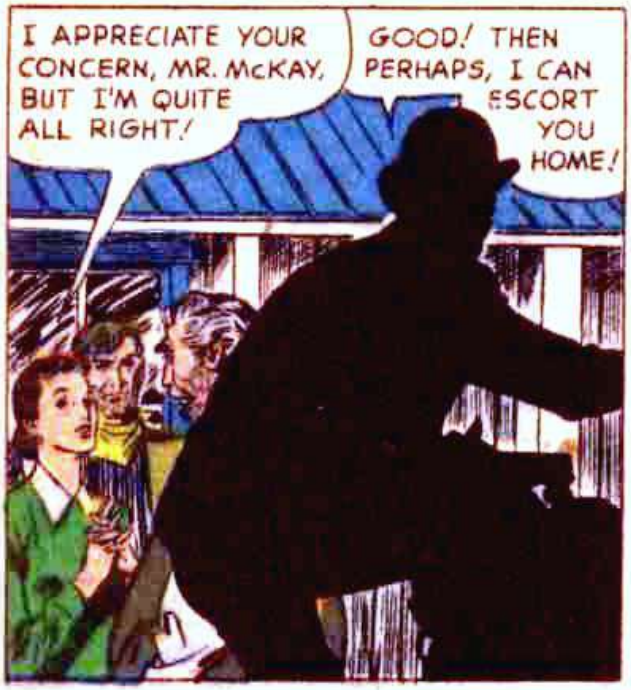
I WAS IN TOWN---HEARD A DRUNKEN COWBOY BRAGGING HOW HE HAD GOTTEN PAID FOR BRINGING YOU INTO A TRAP! HIS NAME WAS JACKMAN! HE SAID OLD RUFUS HAD HIM TELL YOU A FALSE STORY TO BRING YOU HERE!

WELL, I CAN'T LEAVE JULIE IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE HANNESEYS! I'M RIDING ON IN!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE THERE? SHE'S GIVEN BUCK PLENTY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!


I'LL JUST ASK HER AND SEE IF YOU ARE CORRECT!
SEÑOR, WAIT! I KNEW THE LITTLE SEÑORITA LONG BEFORE YOU! HER GRANDFATHER WAS MY FRIEND! I RIDE WITH YOU!

DON'T LOOK UP, SEÑOR! I SAW THE GLINT OF A GUN BARREL--- WE ARE WATCHED!

LIGHT, STRANGER! BY YOUR CLOTHES, YOU MUST BE McKAY! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
THERE'S SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MISS MARAGON IS HERE OF HER OWN FREE WILL OR NOT!


I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, MR. McKAY, BUT I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT!
GOOD! THEN PERHAPS, I CAN ESCORT YOU HOME!

I'M AFRAID NOT! I'M STAYING HERE! YOU SEE, BUCK HANNESEY AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
YES, THE REVEREND BEAMIS IS HERE TO PERFORM THE LITTLE CEREMONY!

IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS! NATURALLY, YOU DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS BUSINESS NOW!
WHAT BUSINESS WOULD YOU BE HAVING WITH THIS GIRL?

HASN'T MISS MARAGON TOLD YOU? I BOUGHT THE BIG MUDDY FROM HER THE OTHER DAY! THERE ARE A FEW LEGAL DETAILS WAITING TO BE TAKEN CARE OF, BUT THEY CAN WAIT!
DID YOU REALLY SELL HIM YOUR PLACE?

YES, HE OWNS THE BIG MUDDY!
AND THE BILL OF SALE IS IN A SAFE PLACE! I CAME HERE TO MARRY MISS TERRILL AND NATURALLY, I MADE OUT A WILL IN HER FAVOR! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, THE BIG MUDDY GOES TO MISS TERRILL!

WELL, I'LL BE HANGED! THREE YEARS OF WAITING AND PLANNING AND I'M A COUPLE OF DAYS TOO LATE!--- YOU HAVE PROOF?
MR. McKAY PAID TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS DOWN IN CASH! HERE IS HIS NOTE FOR THE BALANCE!

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR PRICE PLUS A PROFIT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS!
LET MISS MARAGON LEAVE AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT!

ALL RIGHT! GIVE ME THE BILL OF SALE AND YOU CAN ALL RIDE OUT OF HERE!
NO, THEY CAN'T--- NOT HER!

YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE FOR ALL OF US, BUCK!
YOU DON'T MIND AS LONG AS YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF A DEAL, DO YOU?

HE'S RIGHT, I RECKON! I PROMISED HIM SOMETHING! HE DID HIS PART! IT'S NOT HIS FAULT IF THE PLAN OF MINE DIDN'T WORK OUT RIGHT! THE DEAL IS OFF! McKAY, YOU AND RAMON BETTER MAKE TRACKS!
YOU MEAN YOU'D FORCE MISS MARAGON TO MARRY BUCK?

SHE'S NOTHING TO ME, SON! EXPECT ME TO FIGHT MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD FOR HER?
HANNESEY, I'VE OWED YOU SOMETHING SINCE THE DAY I ARRIVED---

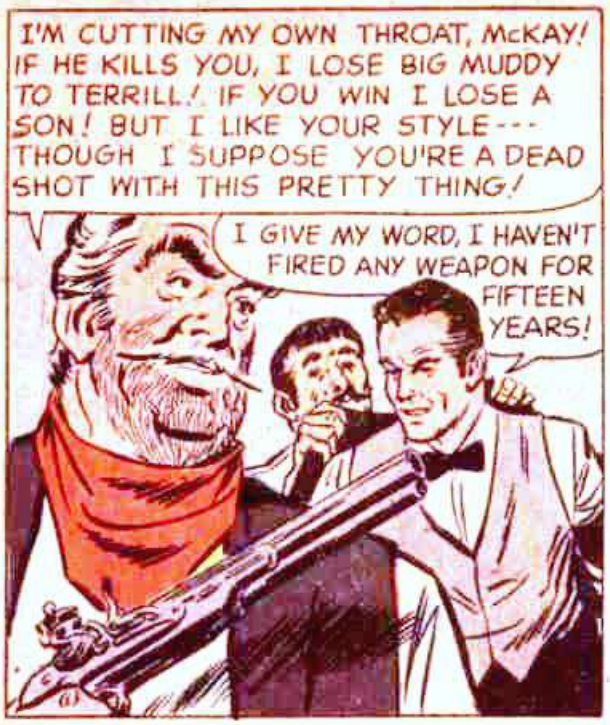
OWW!

GIVE HIM A GUN, SOMEBODY! GIVE THAT DUDE A GUN!
IT IS A WILD GAMBLE---BUT SOMETHING IN THE WAY OLD RUFUS KEEPS WANTING TO BE TREATED LIKE A RESPECTABLE GENTLEMAN MAY MAKE THIS TRICK WORK!

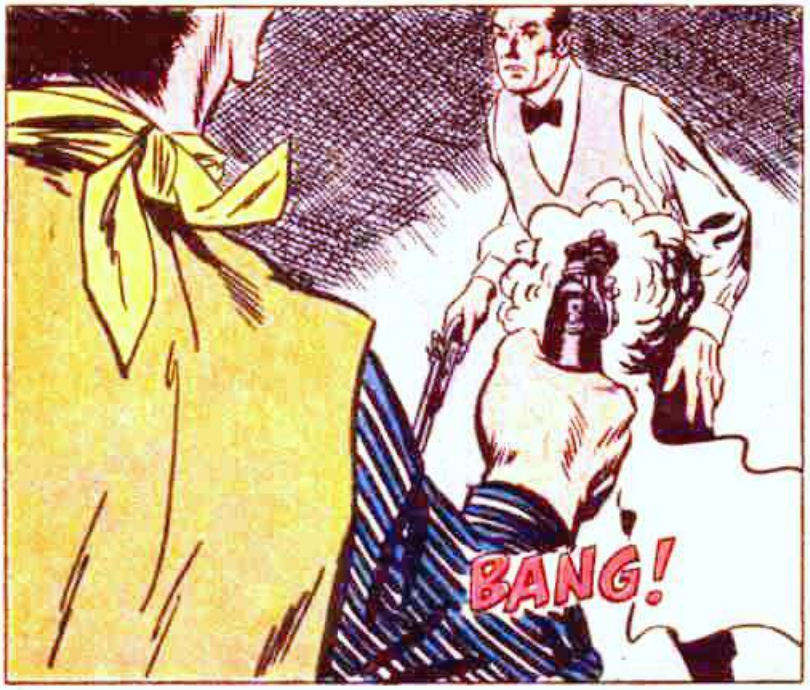
RAMON, TELL THE GENTLEMAN THAT IF HE WANTS SATISFACTION FOR THE BLOW, I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE HIM! HERE ARE THE PISTOLS AND I ASSUME TWENTY PACES IS AGREEABLE!
TELL HIM TO TURN AROUND UNLESS HE WANTS IT IN THE BACK!

HOLD ON, BUCK! YOUR WOMEN ARE YOUR BUSINESS, BUT I SAY WHO GETS SHOT AROUND HERE! SEEMS MR. McKAY IS CHALLENGING YOU TO A DUEL!
HERE ARE THE WEAPONS!

REAL GENTLEMEN'S WEAPONS! I THINK IT'S TIME BUCK FOUGHT A GENTLEMAN! I'M TIRED OF WATCHING HIM YANK OUT HIS SIX-GUN EVERY TIME A FLY BITES HIM!---BUCK, YOU DRAW FAST, BUT CAN YOU FACE A MAN ON EVEN TERMS?
I'LL FIGHT HIM WITH ANY WEAPON!

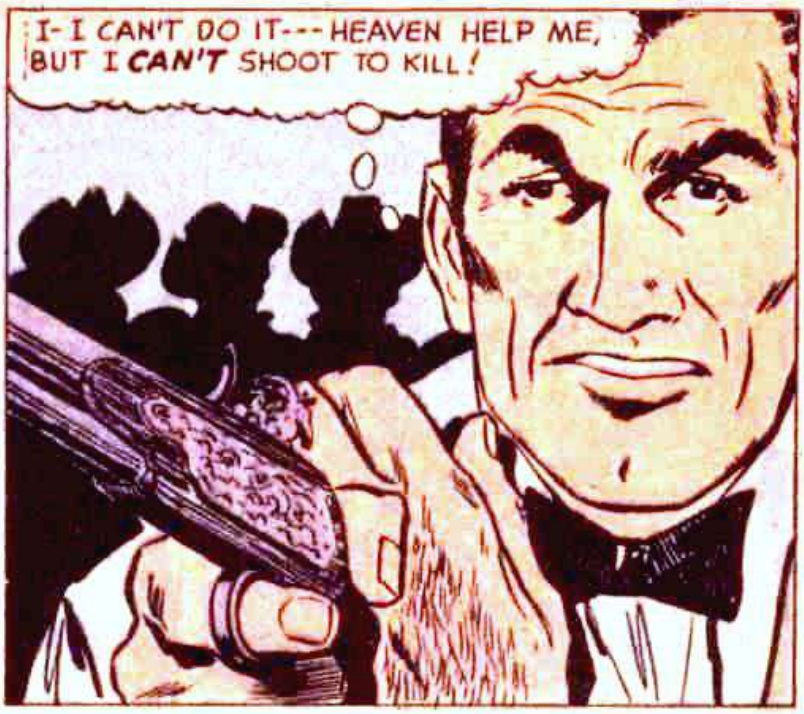


MINUTES LATER, AS OLD RUFUS LOADS AND PACES OFF THE DUELING DISTANCE...



AS HIS BROTHERS JEER, BUCK WATCHES HIS FATHER RELOAD BOTH PISTOLS AND THEY TAKE THEIR PLACES...

BUCK HIT THE DUDE'S ARM!
YES, BUT IT ISN'T STOPPING HIM FROM FIRING! IF HE TAKES HIS TIME, HE'LL DROP BUCK!


I-I CAN'T DO IT---HEAVEN HELP ME, BUT I CAN'T SHOOT TO KILL!

LOOK! BUCK HAD A SIX-GUN HID ON HIM!
BANG!

I'M SORRY---I DID NOT SHOOT TO KILL!

BUT I DID!

MINUTES LATER, THEY TELL WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CANYON...

I STILL SAY THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOR WHAT THEY AIMED TO DO TO MISS MARAGON!

ONE MAN IS DEAD! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY! TURN AROUND AND RIDE HOME!

OUT OF THE WAY OR I'LL RIDE YOU DOWN!

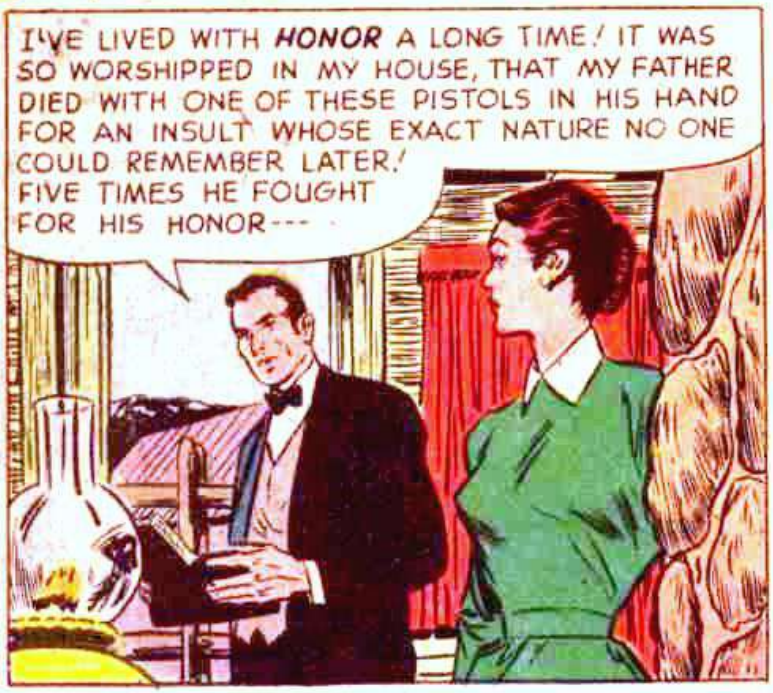
I WOULDN'T FIGHT YOU FOR A LADY'S SMILE, MR. LEECH, BUT I **WILL** FIGHT YOU FOR THE LIVES OF THE MEN WHO'D DIE IF YOU ATTACKED!

BUT I WARN YOU, I COMMANDED MY OWN SHIP AT TWENTY-ONE! I OFTEN HAD TO GET DISCIPLINE WITH MY FISTS! SO IF YOU'D LIKE TO AVOID THE FIGHT AND APOLOGIZE FOR STRIKING ME THE OTHER DAY---

---**APOLOGIZE!** I'LL FIX YOU GOOD THIS TIME!

HE'S STILL TRYING TO GET UP! HE HAS COURAGE!

YES, HE DOES, BUT COURAGE, AFTER ALL, IS A FAIRLY **COMMON** THING!



A PLEDGE DELL COMIC TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.

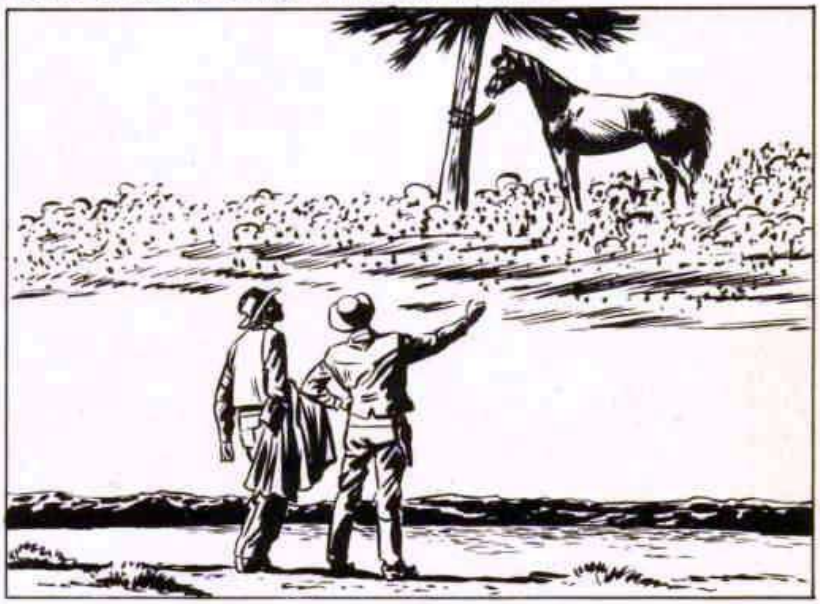
TENDERFOOT JOKES

THE TENDERFOOT IN THE OLD WEST WAS ALWAYS THE VICTIM OF PRANKS DURING HIS BREAKING-IN PERIOD. BEFORE HE BECAME AN "OLD HAND," HE WAS SENT TO DO A VARIETY OF IMPOSSIBLE JOBS. A FAVORITE WAS SENDING THE NEW-COMER TO THE STORE FOR "STRIPED PAINT."

SOMETIMES, A NEW HAND WAS GIVEN MACARONI TO PLANT AND HE WATERED AND TENDED THE CROP CAREFULLY UNTIL HE CAUGHT ONTO THE TRICK.

PROSPECTORS FOOLED NEWCOMERS BY MINING "JACK PINE GOLD" SUPPOSEDLY CAUGHT IN TREES AS THEY PUSHED THROUGH THE EARTH, BUT REALLY HIDDEN TO TRICK THE UNWARY.

STORIES TO FRIGHTEN A TENDERFOOT WERE TOLD OF DUST STORMS SO THICK THAT AFTER ONE, A TIED HORSE COULD BE FOUND STANDING SEVENTY FEET IN THE AIR.

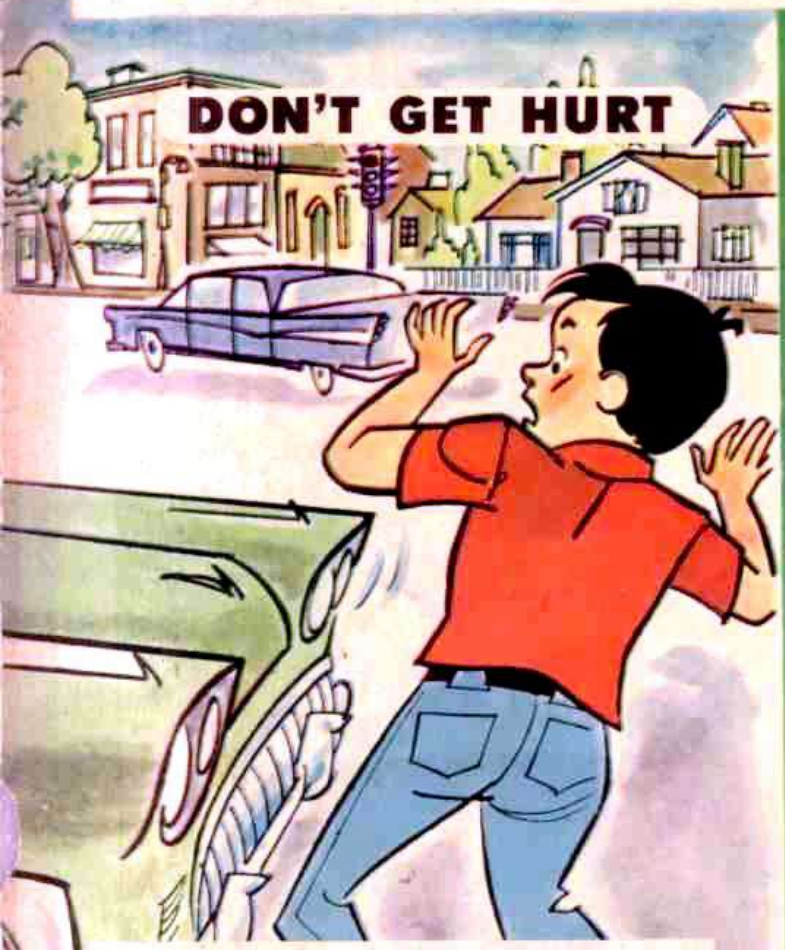


"FEARSOME CRITTERS" WERE MADE BY PAINTING AND DECORATING COMMON RANCH ANIMALS. ALL WAS DONE TO TEASE AND MOST TIMES EVEN THE TENDERFOOT ENJOYED THE FUN.

JUICY FRUIT GUM
PRESENTS

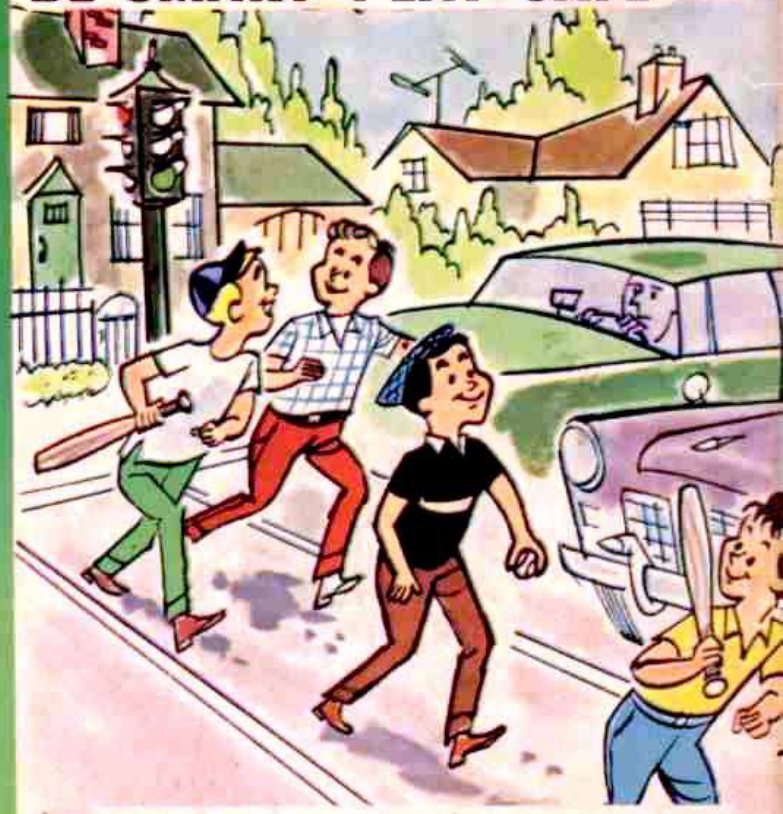
HAVE FUN SAFELY

DON'T GET HURT



NEVER run into or across the street.
NEVER step between parked cars.
NEVER cross in the middle of a block.
NEVER run after busses or cars.
NEVER accept rides with strangers.
NEVER play games in or near the street.

BE SMART—PLAY SAFE



ALWAYS cross at crosswalks.
ALWAYS look both ways and around corner before crossing the street.
ALWAYS walk, don't run, across streets.
ALWAYS wait for the green when crossing at a traffic light.
ALWAYS walk on the sidewalk, if possible. If you must walk in road, face traffic.

HERE'S ANOTHER SMART IDEA...

You'll go for the delicious flavor of Juicy Fruit Gum—and chewing this swell gum helps keep your teeth clean. Remind your Mom to bring some home.